

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for automated distribution of software in a fiber optic network comprising:

initiating a single contact with a multiplexor and, through the single contact,
identifying software comprised on each of a plurality of firmware cards located in [[a]] the multiplexor, the multiplexor having and on a firmware card located in a plurality of network unit[[s]] connected thereto over a fiber optic connection[[s]];

determining whether the software comprised on each of the plurality of firmware cards located in the multiplexor is a prescribed software version;

if the software comprised on one of said plurality of firmware cards located in the multiplexor is not the prescribed software version, updating the software;

~~identifying software comprised on a firmware card located in one of the plurality of network units;~~

determining whether the software comprised on the firmware card located in the network unit is a prescribed software version; and

if the software comprised in the firmware card located in one of the plurality of network units is not the prescribed software version, updating the software.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the software ~~comprised on each of a plurality of firmware cards located in a multiplexor~~ comprises identifying a version for the software.

3. cancelled.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the software ~~comprised on each of a plurality of firmware cards located in a multiplexor~~ comprises identifying software comprised on an optical interface unit card.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the software ~~comprised on each of a plurality of firmware cards located in a multiplexor~~ comprises identifying software comprised on an optical multiplexing unit card.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the software ~~comprised on a firmware card located in one of the plurality of network units~~ comprises identifying software comprised on an optical interface unit card.
7. (original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method recited in claim 1.
8. (currently amended) A method for automated distribution of software in a fiber optic network comprising:
 - initiating a single contact with the multiplexor and, through the single contact,
 - identifying software comprised in ~~[[a]]~~ the multiplexor, ~~the multiplexor having and in~~ a plurality of network units connected thereto over fiber optic connections ~~and each of the plurality of network units having a plurality of fiber optic connections extending therefrom to end users;~~
 - ~~identifying the software on each of the plurality of network units;~~
 - determining if the software on each of the plurality of network units is compatible with the software on the multiplexor; and
 - if the software on one of the plurality of network units is not compatible with the software on the multiplexor, updating the software on the one of the plurality of network units.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein identifying the software ~~on each of the plurality of network units~~ comprises identifying the software version ~~on each of the plurality of network units~~.
10. cancelled.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein determining if the software on each of the plurality of network units is compatible with the software on the multiplexor comprises determining if a software version on each of the plurality of network units is compatible with a software version on the multiplexor.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein identifying software ~~comprised in a multiplexor~~ comprises determining the version of software on a firmware card in the multiplexor.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein determining the version of software on a firmware card in the multiplexor comprises determining the version of software on at least one of an optical interface unit card and an optical multiplexing unit card.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein identifying the software ~~on each of the plurality of network units~~ comprises determining the version of software on firmware cards located on the plurality of network units.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein determining the version of software on firmware cards located on the plurality of network units comprises determining the version of software on an optical interface unit card.

16. (original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 8.

17 – 19. cancelled.

20. (currently amended) A system for automatically distributing software in a fiber optic network comprising:

a processor for executing computer executable instructions; and
memory for storing computer executable instructions, wherein said memory has stored therein computer executable instructions for performing the following steps:

initiating a single contact with a multiplexor and, through the single contact, identifying software comprised on each of a plurality of firmware cards located in [[a]] ~~the multiplexor, the multiplexor having and on a firmware card located in a plurality of~~ network unit[[s]] connected thereto over a fiber optic connection[[s]];

determining whether the software comprised on each of the plurality of firmware cards located in the multiplexor is a prescribed software version;

if the software comprised on one of said plurality of firmware cards located in the multiplexor is not the prescribed software version, updating the software;

~~identifying software comprised on a firmware card located in one of the plurality of network units;~~

determining whether the software comprised on the firmware card located in the network unit is a prescribed software version; and

if the software comprised in the firmware card located in one of the plurality of network units is not the prescribed software version, updating the software.